



## **EOC Daily Emergency Management Report**

**Date: 4/18/2013**  
**Time: 11:30 AM EDT**  
**Report No: 102**

### **Alerts & Warnings**

**FEMA National Watch Center – Watch/Steady State**  
**National Terrorism Advisory System (NTAS) – No Current Alerts**  
**Continuity of Operations (COOP) COGCON Level is 4**  
**EPA HQ at Level 6 (Steady State)**  
**EPA R6 REOC at Level 3 (extended response/single incident) for Mayflower, AR Oil Spill**

### **EPA Headquarters Activities**

ASPECT (Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology) is on scene supporting Region 6's response to the West Fertilizer, Inc's Fire and Explosion in West, TX. It flew 21 runs last night at approximately midnight local time and detected ammonia in the plume near the source. It is currently grounded and waiting for the weather to clear for safe flying conditions. Its mission for today is wide-area aerial photography.

Portable High Throughput Integrated Laboratory Identification Systems (PHILIS) labs and assets (located in Edison, NJ and Castle Rock, CO) are operational and available for deployment.

The ERT Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) (Edison, Las Vegas & RTP) & Mobile Command Posts are available for deployment.

### **Significant National Weather**

**West:** A weather front is moving in off the Pacific and will produce rain in the Pacific Northwest and more snow is forecast for the Northern and Central Rockies.

**Midwest:** Snow and heavy snow will fall from the Central Rockies to northern Minnesota and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Weather conditions will produce widespread precipitation, including heavy rains, thunderstorms, and a moderate risk of severe thunderstorms, from the Southern Plains northward to the Great Lakes.

**South:** Rain and thunderstorms are possible across the region today. Texas is forecast to have strong south winds with possible gusts of 30 knots.

**Northeast:** A warm front approaching from the south will bring rain and a few isolated thunderstorms this afternoon and into the evening.

**Tropical Activity:** There is no activity affecting U.S. territories.

**Tornado Weather:** There is a 2 to 10 percent chance of tornado activity in an area stretching from the Gulf of Mexico into the Great Lakes.

**Significant Flood Outlook:** There is significant river flooding occurring in portions of North Dakota, Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan. Significant flooding is likely or possible in other areas of these states as well as portions of Oklahoma, Kansas, Minnesota, Ohio, Indiana, Missouri and Iowa.

**Critical Fire Weather:** Critical Fire Weather is forecast today for portions of southern California. Red Flag Warnings have been issued for this area as well as parts of southern Texas.

### **Report of Incident Notifications**

**West Fertilizer, Inc., West, Texas:** At approximately 1950 CDT on April 17, a fire and explosion at the West Fertilizer plant decimated the town of West, north of Waco, causing multiple injuries and fatalities. The exact number of injuries is unknown at this time, but the local emergency manager is reporting approximately 75 dead (includes 6 initial responders) and over 150 injured (reported unofficially to Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) at 0100, April 18).

A fire at the facility caused anhydrous ammonia to explode, resulting in a shock wave in the area, causing multiple fires in a six block radius. An apartment building and nursing home adjacent to the facility are severely impacted. Fires are ongoing at multiple residences, the West Middle School, and several other buildings. The cause of the explosion is still under investigation.

Multiple emergency response agencies are engaged in fire-fighting and public safety activities. Region 6 has deployed 2 OSCs, 8 contractors and the mobile command post to the site. Additional OSCs and contractors are on standby. Air monitoring will be conducted. The OSCs will coordinate with TCEQ and multiple state and local partners on the response. ASPECT flew the area at approximately 0030, April 18. Preliminary review of the ASPECT data shows the highest concentration of ammonia is about 600 feet downwind of the fire at 60 to 100 ppm (the plume is moving to the northwest of the fire). At approximately 1/2 mile down wind, ammonia is not detected.

**BNSF Tanker Spill, Columbus, Lowndes County, Mississippi:** At approximately 1400-hours local time on April 17, the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality (MSDEQ) contacted Region 4 Emergency Operations Center to report a release of light crude oil from a tank car to the ballast/ground, estimated over several miles to the north of a side track near Columbus, Mississippi (RR Milepost 638.8). A potential valve failure under pressure was the focus of the spill investigation. MSDEQ coordinated with R4 Phone Duty regarding various reported metrics of the discharge incident prior to discovery by the responsible party. An OSC was dispatched to provide additional support and direction for the spill cleanup.

There were 23 epaossc.org websites created and/or updated during this reporting period (4/17/13– 4/18/13).

### **Exercises / Pre-Deployments**

Nothing to report.

### **Regional Daily Ops Status Report**

Reported activities primarily represent NRC notifications with some state-level and other notifications to Regional Phone Duty Officers.

#### **Reported Activities (4/17/13 – 4/18/13)**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Oil</b>	<b>Hazmat</b>	<b>Radiation</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
Region 1	3	0	0	0	<b>3</b>
Region 2	2	0	0	1	<b>3</b>

Region 3	4	2	0	1	<b>7</b>
Region 4	13	4	0	3	<b>20</b>
Region 5	12	2	0	4	<b>18</b>
Region 6	1	5	0	1	<b>7</b>
Region 7	1	4	0	2	<b>7</b>
Region 8	3	1	0	1	<b>5</b>
Region 9	12	7	0	9	<b>28</b>
Region 10	5	1	0	3	<b>9</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>107</b>

**Note: There were 11 unclassified events in the Hotline Log.**